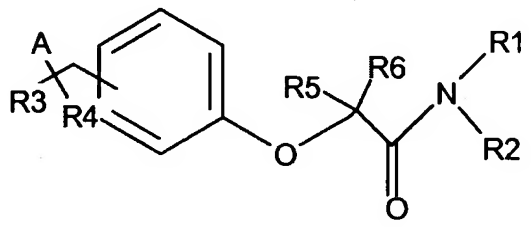
In the Claims. Applicants request amendment of the Claims prior to any action on the merits. The following listing of the claims shall replace all previous versions.

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A Compound of the structural formula I:

Formula I



(a) R1 is hydrogen;

(b) R2' is ~~are each independently~~ selected from a group consisting of C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, arylC_0-C_2alkoxy, haloC_1-C_3alkyl, halo, aryl, -C(O)C_1-C_5alkyl, -C(O)-aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, arylC_1-C_5alkyl, and biarylC_1-C_5alkyl; and which –C(O)-aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_5 alkyl, haloC_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, and –C(O)C_1-C_5alkyl; and which C_1-C_5 alkyl, arylC_1-C_5alkyl, biarylC_1-C_5alkyl, and aryl are each independently unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_8alkyl, aryl, haloC_1-C_5 alkyl, trihaloC_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_5alkoxy, and arylC_1-C_5alkyl; and which aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_8alkyl, aryl, haloC_1-C_5 alkyl, trihaloC_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_5alkoxy, and arylC_1-C_5alkyl;

(c) R2 is selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, aryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, aminoC_1-C_4alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkylaryl-C_{0-2}-alkyl, arylheteroC_1-C_8alkyl, C_{0-4}-alkyl-C(O)heteroC_1-C_8alkyl, -CH(C(O)OCH$_3$)benzyl, and –CH$_2$-C(O)-R15''-R16'', and which C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, aryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, aminoC_1-C_4alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkylaryl-C_{0-2}-alkyl, arylheteroC_1-C_8alkyl, C_{0-4}-alkyl-

C(O)heteroC_1-C_8alkyl, and –CH_2-C(O)-R15''-R16'' are each independently unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R2';

(d) R15'' is O or NH;

(e) R16'' is C_1-C_2 alkyl or benzyl which C_1-C_2 alkyl and benzyl are each unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R16';

(f) R7' and R7'' are each independently selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4 alkyl and C_1-C_4 haloalkyl;

(g) n and m are each independently selected from the group consisting of 0, 1, 2 and 3;

(h) A is selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_m$ COOR14, C_1-C_3alkylnitrile, carboxamide, sulfonamide, acylsulfonamide and tetrazole, and which sulfonamide, acylsulfonamide and tetrazole are each independently unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of A';

(i) A' is a group consisting of C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, heteroaryl, and aryl, and wherein heteroaryl and aryl are each independently unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 haloalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, and –C(O) C_1-C_5 alkyl;

(j) R3 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkenyl, and C_1-C_6 alkoxy;

(k) R4 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, aryl C_0-C_4 alkyl, and C_{0-4}alkoxyaryl, and which C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, aryl C_0-C_4 alkyl, and C_{0-4}alkoxyaryl are each independently unsubstituted or each independently substituted with from one to four substituents each independently selected from R4'; or R3 and R4 are combined to form a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl;

(l) R5 and R6 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, heteroaryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkylaryl-C_{0-}

2-alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl-C_{0-2}-alkyl, and $-CH_2$-C(O)-R17-R18, and which C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, heteroaryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkylaryl-C_{0-2}-alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl-C_{0-2}-alkyl, and $-CH_2$-C(O)-R17-R18 are each independently unsubstituted or substituted with from one to four substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R5';

(m) R4', R5', and R13'' are each independently a group consisting of C1-C5 alkyl, C1-C5 alkoxy, C1-C5 haloalkyl, C1-C5 haloalkoxy, nitro, cyano, CHO, □ydroxyl, C_1-C_4 alkanoic acid, phenyl, aryloxy, SO_2R7', SR7'', arylC_0-C_2alkoxy, C1-C6alkylcarboxamido, and COOH;

(n) R16' is a group consisting of halo, C_1-C_8alkyl, aryl, haloalkyl, trihaloC_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_5alkoxy, and arylC_1-C_5alkyl;

(o) R17 and R18 are each independently selected from C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, heteroaryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkylaryl-C_{0-2}-alkyl, and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl-C_{0-2}-alkyl;

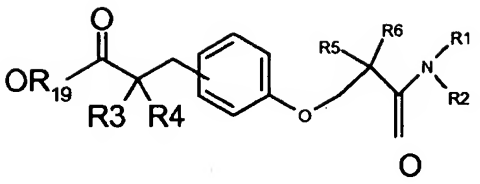
(p) R14 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C4alkyl, aryl, and arylmethyl, and which C1-C4alkyl are each independently unsubstituted or independently substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R13' and which arylmethyl and aryl are each independently unsubstituted or independently substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R14';

(q) R13' is a group consisting of C_1-C_5 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_5 haloalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, aryloxy, halo, aryl, $-C(O)C_1$-C_5alkyl, -C(O)-aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, aryl C_1-C_5 alkyl, and C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, and which –C(O)aryl, aryl, aryl C_1-C_5 alkyl, and C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl are each independently unsubstituted or substutited with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R13''; and

(r) R14' is a group consisting of halo, C1-C8alkyl, C_1-C_5 haloalkyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, and arylC_0-C_4alkyl; or

(s) a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

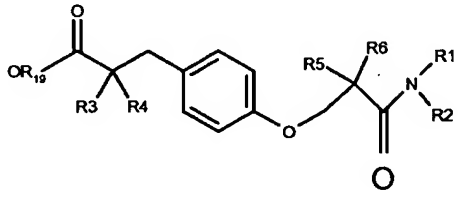
2. (Original) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 of the structural Formula II:



II

wherein R19 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C4alkyl, aryl, and arylmethyl, wherein the alkyl, aryl and arylmethyl are each unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from R14'.

3. (Previously presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 2 that is of the following structural formula III:



III

wherein R19 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C1-C4alkyl, aryl, and arylmethyl, wherein the alkyl, aryl and arylmethyl are each unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from R14'.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 wherein R1 is hydrogen.

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 4 wherein R2 is selected from the group consisting of arylC_0-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_8 alkyl, heteroarylC_0-C_4alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_0-C_4alkyl-C(O)-heteroC_1-C_8 alkyl, arylheteroC_1-C_8alkyl, wherein each of said R2 is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of phenyl, halophenyl, phenoxy, halo, haloC_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, and C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl.

6. (Original) A compound as claimed by Claim 5 wherein R2 is arylC_0-C_4alkyl wherein the aryl is phenyl or napthyl, and the C_0-C_4alkyl is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and not present, that is C_0 alkyl.

7. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 5 wherein R2 is heteroarylC_0-C_4alkyl, and said heteroarylC_0-C_4alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from R2'; and wherein the heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of pyridine, thiazole, benzothiazole, and thiadiazole; and the alkyl is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and not present, that is C_0 alkyl.

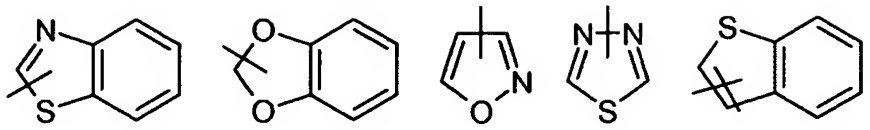
8. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 5 wherein R2 is arylheteroC_1-C_8alkyl, wherein the arylheteroC_1-C_8alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R2'; wherein the aryl group is phenyl, and the heteroatom is selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen.

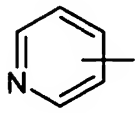
9. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by of Claim 8 wherein the R2 group is substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, trifluoromethyl, methoxyl, ethoxyl, phenyl, and phenoxyl.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 1, wherein said piperidine and piperazine is fused with a phenyl to form a bicyclic ring.

12. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 1, wherein R2 is unsubstituted or substituted heteroarylC0-C4alkyl; wherein said heteroaryl is selected from the group consisting of:


, and.



13. (Canceled).

8 14. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 wherein R2 is –CH(C(O)OCH$_3$)benzyl.

9 15. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 or Claim 4 wherein R6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, and aryl-C_{0-4}-alkyl, wherein the alkyl and arylalkyl are each independently substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R5'.

10 16. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 15 wherein R5 is H or methyl.

11 17. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by any one of Claims 1 or Claim 16 wherein R6 is C_1-C_3 alkyl.

12 18. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 17, wherein R6 is methyl.

19. (Canceled)

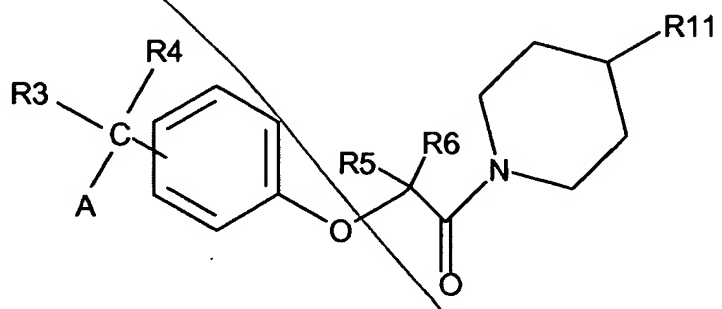
13 20. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 wherein R5 is hydrogen or methyl, R6 is C_1-C_3 alkyl, and R3 is C_1-C_3alkoxy.

14

21. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 wherein A is C(O)OR26; R26 is H or C_1-C_3alkyl.

22. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 that is of the structural formula IV:

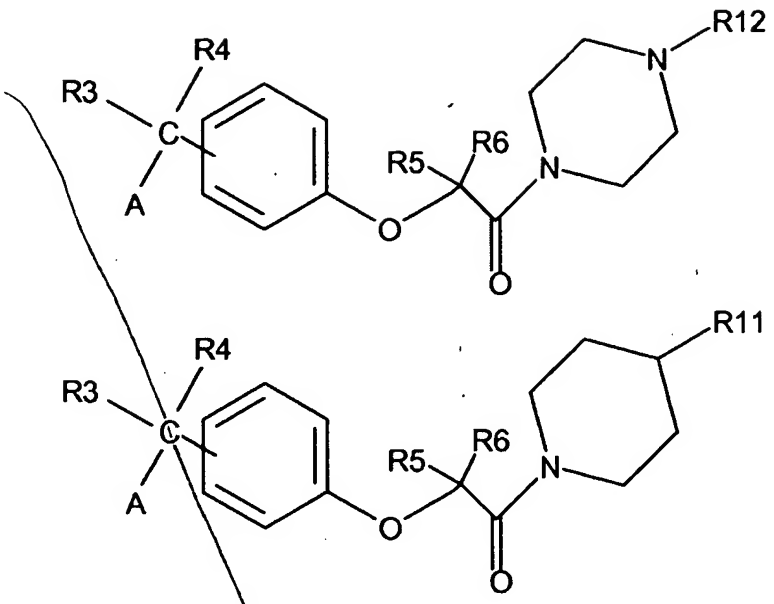
IV



wherein R11 is selected from the group consisting of aryl, -C(O)aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylaryl, C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, aryloxy, and C1-C6 alkyl, wherein the aryl, -C(O)aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylaryl, C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, and C1-C6 alkyl are each independently unsubstituted or each independently substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R1'.

23. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 that is of the structural formula V:

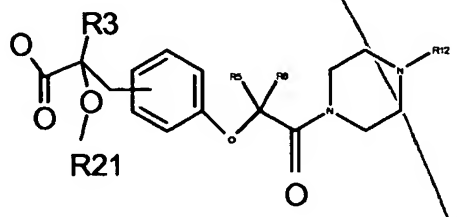
V



wherein R12 is selected from the group consisting of aryl, aryloxy, -C(O)aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylaryl, C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, and C1-C6 alkyl, wherein the aryl, -C(O)aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylaryl, C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, and C1-C6 alkyl are each independently unsubstituted or each independently substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R1'.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Withdrawn) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 that is of the structural formula VII:



VII

wherein wherein R12 is selected from the group consisting of aryl, aryloxy, -C(O)aryl, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, arylC_1-C_5 alkyl, C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, and C1-C6 alkyl, wherein the aryl, -C(O)aryl, aryloxy, haloC_1-C_5alkyloxy, C_1-C_5 alkylaryl, C_1-C_5 alkylbiaryl, and C1-C6

alkyl are each independently unsubstituted or each independently substituted with from one to three substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of R1'; R25 is selected from the group consisting of C1-C4alkyl, halo, haloC1-C3alkyl, C1-C5 alkoxy, and phenyl.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:

(2S,1'R)-2-Ethoxy-3-(4-{1'-[2-(4-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid; (2S,1'R)-2-Ethoxy-3-(4-{1'-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1'-[2-(4-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1'-[2-(2-ethoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-{4-[1'-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-{4-[1'-(3-fluoro-5-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-3-(4-{1'-[(biphenyl-3-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-3-(4-{1'-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1'-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1'-[2-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-3-(4-{1'-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-3-(4-{1'-[2-(2,6-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-3-(4-{1'-[2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;(2S,1'R)-3-(4-{1'-[2-(4-tert-butyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-{4-[1'-(4-fluoro-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;(2S,1'R)-2-ethoxy-3-{4-[1'-(4-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

(2S,1'R)-3-{4-[1'-(4-tert-butyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;(2S,1'R)-3-{4-[1'-(4-tert-butyl-phenylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;(2S,1'R)-3-{4-[1'-(4-trans-tert-butyl-cyclohexylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-{4-[1-(4-tert-butyl-cyclohexylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-methoxy-3-(4-{1-methyl-1-[2-(4-phenoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2-ethoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

2-methoxy-3-(4-{1-methyl-1-[2-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-methoxy-3-{4-[1-methyl-1-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid; (2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[(biphenyl-3-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1-methyl-1-[2-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(3-fluoro-5-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2-chloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;(2S)-3-(4-{1-[(biphenyl-3-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1-[2-(2-fluoro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-{3-[1-(4-tert-butyl-cyclohexylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-{3-[1-(3-fluoro-5-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-1-methyl-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(3-{1-[(biphenyl-3-ylmethyl)-carbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(3-{1-[2-(3-chloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-methoxy-3-{4-[(1-phenyl-ethylcarbamoyl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(3-{1-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(3-{1-[2-(2,6-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2,4-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2- ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-3-(4-{1-[2-(2,6-dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

(2S)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{1-[2-(2-ethoxy-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-1-methyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(3-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(5-fluoro-3-trifluoromethyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(3-phenyl-benzylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(4-phenoxy-phenylethylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-{4-[1-(3-trifluoromethyl-phenylethylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid;

3-(4-{1-[2-(2,6-Dichloro-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-(4-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

2-Ethoxy-3-(4-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid;

3-(4-{Cyclohexyl-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-methoxy}-phenyl)-2-ethoxy-propionic acid; and

2-Ethoxy-3-(4-{1-[2-(4-ethyl-phenyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-2-phenyl-ethoxy}-phenyl)-propionic acid; ~~and~~

or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

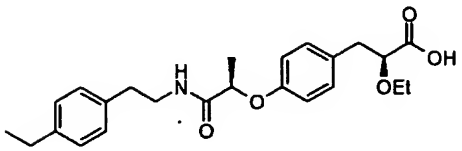
16

27. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of

(2S,1'R)-3-{4-[1'-(4-tert-butyl-cyclohexylcarbamoyl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid; or

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

17 28. (Original) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 wherein the compound is



; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (Canceled)

18 30. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and at least one compound as claimed by Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

31. (Canceled)

19 32. (Previously Presented) A method of treating diabetes mellitus in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing diabetes mellitus in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to the mammal an effective amount of at least one compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

20 34. (Previously Presented) A method of treating Syndrome X in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (Canceled)

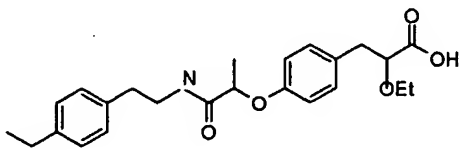
21 ~~36.~~ (Previously Presented) A compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1 for use as a medicine.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

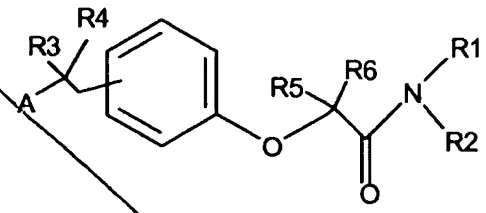
39. (Canceled)

22 ~~40.~~ (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula



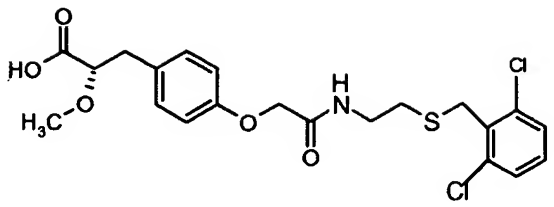
; or a pharmaceutically acceptably salt thereof.

41. (Withdrawn) A Compound of the formula



Wherein R1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl and arylC_0-C_4alkyl; R2 is selected from the group consisting of arylC_0-C_4alkyl, and heteroarylC_0-C_4alkyl; or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof.

23 ~~42.~~ (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by Claim 1 that is of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24 ~~43.~~ (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed by any one of Claims 1, or 42 wherein the compound is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

25 ~~44.~~ (Previously Presented) A compound of Claim 1 that is (2S)-3-(4-{[2-(2,6-dichloro-benzylsulfanyl)-ethylcarbamoyl]-methoxy}-phenyl)-2-methoxy-propionic acid.

26 ~~45.~~ (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and at least one compound as claimed by Claim 42 or 44.